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Alluding to former observations for the purpose of determining the dip in London, the author observes that, independent of any imperfection in the instruments, they were made in houses in close built parts of the metropolis, and, therefore, all subject to the influence of local attraction; and, moreover, that the correction found by observing the difference of the dip on the outside of the house cannot be regarded as an effectual remedy, inasmuch as the needle may still have been attracted by iron in the adjoining houses, or in the neighbourhood. It is, indeed, only requisite to try needles in different situations in a city, to be convinced how little dependence should be placed in the accuracy of such results: the author thinks that it is rather owing to this cause than to instrumental error, that the dip at the Apartments of the Royal Society is stated in the Philosophical Transactions for the present year to be 71° 06′. To avoid this source of error, Captain Sabine conducted the observations which form the subject of this lecture in the nursery-ground in the Regent's Park, a situation which he regards in all respects eligible, and far removed from the influence of iron.

Some Positions respecting the Influence of the Voltaic Battery in obviating the Effects of the Division of the Eighth Pair of Nerves. Drawn up by A. P. Wilson Philip, *M.D. F.R.S. Edinb. Communicated by* B. C. Brodie, *Esq. F.R.S.* Read July 5, 1821. [*Phil. Trans.* 1822, *p.* 22.]

The positions established by Dr. Philip, to the satisfaction of Mr. Brodie, are detailed in this paper in the following order.

First. When the nerves are divided and the ends not displaced, if the animal live some hours, food swallowed *before* the operation is *much* digested; but if the ends of the nerves be turned from each other, no *perfectly digested* food is, under the same circumstances, found in the stomach, nor does digestion go on though the animal live; but galvanism applied to the nerves occasions a degree of digestion in the food contained in the stomach, and when galvanized the animal does not suffer from dyspnœa. When the nerves are simply divided, and the animal lives for six hours, the lungs become congested; but they appear healthy when galvanism has before been sent through the lower portion of the divided nerves.

On some Alvine Concretions found in the Colon of a young Man in Lancashire, after Death. By J. G. Children, *Esq. F.R.S. &c. &c. Communicated by the Society for Promoting Animal Chemistry.* Read December 13, 1821. [*Phil. Trans.* 1822, *p.* 24.]

After detailing the above, and adverting to two other cases of intestinal concretions, Mr. Children describes the appearance and composition of the calculi. The nucleus of each was a plumstone enveloped in a compact coating of phosphate of lime and ammoniaco-magnesian phosphate, and of a fibrous substance alternating in layers; the animal matter which they contain is chiefly gelatine and a little resin; and the fibrous vegetable matter appears to have been derived from the inner coat enveloping the farinaceous part of the oat. From other cases, which the author mentions at the conclusion of his paper, it appears that oatmeal has not unfrequently contributed to the deposition upon intestinal concretions; and from the analyses which he quotes, the same fibrous matter has been detected in them by other chemists.

On the Concentric Adjustment of a Triple Object-Glass. By William Hyde Wollaston, *M.D. V.P.R.S.* Read December 13, 1821. [*Phil. Trans.* 1822, *p.* 32.]

The centering of a triple achromatic object-glass has always presented considerable difficulties to practical opticians, which Dr. Wollaston has succeeded in removing, with regard to an excellent telescope in his own possession, by observing the relative position of the fifteen small images of a luminous object near the eye-glass, which are formed by the binary combinations of the reflexions of the six surfaces concerned, and which are seen by an eye situated beyond the object-glass, and assisted, if required, by a lens. When these images are all in the same right line, it is obvious that the glasses are not only well adjusted together, but that each is well centered; and by means of four screws acting on each glass, Dr. Wollaston was able to make the adjustment so complete, as considerably to improve the powers of the instrument.

On a New Species of Rhinoceros found in the interior of Africa, the Skull of which bears a close Resemblance to that found in a Fossil State in Siberia and other Countries. By Sir Everard Home, *Bart. V.P.R.S.* Read December 13, 1821. [*Phil. Trans.* 1822, *p.* 38.]

The animal described in this paper was shot about 300 miles west of La Goa Bay, 6 miles from the city of Mashow, and 1000 miles in a straight direction from the Cape of Good Hope. It is graminivorous, and not gregarious. The skull is 36 inches long; and the position of the horns, though differing in many respects from those of other existing species, bear so close a resemblance to those of the fossil skulls from Siberia, as to leave no prominent characteristic mark between them; hence the author doubts whether many races of animals supposed to be extinct are really so: he thinks it probable that they may have retired to uninhabited parts of the globe. The small capacity of the skull of the rhinoceros, as compared with that of the elephant, accounts for its inferior intellect, for the extreme difficulty of rendering the animal tractable, and for the failure of all attempts that have been made at taming him; and renders it not improbable that the unicorn, not to be tamed, mentioned by Job, is identical with the rhinoceros, since no other animal so devoid of intellect has ever been described. In that age, says the author, the short horn, which